

means for carrying out an error correction process on each packet segment with the

selected error correction scheme; and

means for transmitting each processed packet segment to a network.

14. (Amended) A packet transferring method comprising the steps of:

dividing a packet to be transmitted into segments to form a plurality of packet

segments;

selecting an error correction scheme from among a plurality of error correction

schemes to be employed for each of the packet segments in accordance with error resistance

of each of the packet segments;

carrying out an error correction process on each packet segment with the selected

error correction scheme; and

transmitting each processed packet segment to a network.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are presently active in this case, Claims 1 and 14 amended by the way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "MPEG-4: An Object-based Multimedia Coding Standard supporting Mobile Applications" by Puri et al. in view of "Error Correction and Concealment for Video Communication: A Review" by Wang et al.

Turning now the merits, Applicants' invention is directed to a communications node and packet transfer method. As discussed in the Background of the Invention section of the

specification, prior art systems of this type have reduced throughput because when a packet with a payload that includes data having certain burst error resistance and bit error resistance (e.g., MPEG-4 Video/Audio) is transmitted in the radio environment, the entire packet must be discarded if a bit error occurs in the header portion of the packet. Applicants' disclosed invention addresses this and other problems.

Specifically, Applicants' Claims 1 and 14 as amended recite a communications node and packet transfer method including dividing a packet to be transmitted into segments to form a plurality of packet segments, and selecting an error correction scheme from among a plurality of error correction schemes to be employed for each of the packet segments in accordance with error resistance of each of the packet segments. Also recited is carrying out an error correction process on each packet segment with the selected error correction scheme, and transmitting each process packet segment to a network. Thus, Applicants' Claims 1 and 14 have now been amended to recite that the selection of an error correction scheme is based on the error resistance of each of the packet segments. Therefore, when a header portion in a payload portion of a packet to be transmitted have different error resistance characteristics, the packet can be transmitted to a network under selection of error correction schemes suitable for the respective error resistance characteristics.¹

The Official Action acknowledges that the reference to Puri et al does not disclose an error correction method, but cites Wang et al as teaching various schemes of error detection. While Wang et al includes a comprehensive review of the techniques that have been developed for error control and concealment, including forward error concealment, error concealment by post processing, and interactive error concealment, the reference to Wang et al does not teach the specific error correction technique now claimed in Claims 1 and 14.

¹Applicants' specification at page 3, lines 18-21.

That is, Wang et al does not disclose selecting an error correction scheme from among a plurality of error correction schemes to be employed for each of the packet segments in accordance with error resistance of each of the packet segments. Therefore, Claims 1 and 14 patentably define over the cited references.

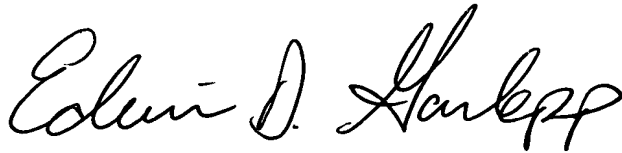
With regard to independent Claim 2, this claim recites a communication node including means for selecting an error correction scheme from among a plurality of error correction schemes to be employed for each of the received packet segments based on predetermined information contained in each received packet segment. As noted above, Wang et al teaches a review of various error correction schemes; however, this reference also does not disclose selecting an error correction scheme based on predetermined information contained in each received packet segment as claimed in Claim 2. In this regard, Applicants note that the Official Action is completely silent as to where this limitation is taught in Wang et al and therefore, the Official Action apparently overlooks the importance of selecting an error correction scheme based on predetermined information contained in each received packet segment. Applicants believe that Wang et al does not disclose this technique, and therefore Claim 2 also patentably defines over the cited references.

As independent Claims 1, 2 and 14 as amended patentably define over the cited references as discussed above, the remaining claims pending in the present application also patentably define over the cited references as these remaining claims depend from independent Claims 1, 2 and 14.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A communication node comprising:

means for dividing a packet to be transmitted into segments to form a plurality of packet segments;

means for selecting an error correction scheme from among a plurality of error correction schemes to be employed for each of the packet segments in accordance with [predetermined criteria] error resistance of each of the packet segments;

means for carrying out an error correction process on each packet segment with the selected error correction scheme; and

means for transmitting each processed packet segment to a network.

14. (Amended) A packet transferring method comprising the steps of:

dividing a packet to be transmitted into segments to form a plurality of packet segments;

selecting an error correction scheme from among a plurality of error correction schemes to be employed for each of the packet segments in accordance with [predetermined criteria] error resistance of each of the packet segments;

carrying out an error correction process on each packet segment with the selected error correction scheme; and

transmitting each processed packet segment to a network.--